GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:645
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
PERMISSION TO INDIAN SCIENTISTS
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has recently removed barriers to the free movement of Scientists from India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) The United States examines visa applications of scientists working in certain scientific areas in accordance with its domestic regulations in this regard. This process also applies to Indian scientists. Following the nuclear tests in May 1998, the United States applied tighter restrictions on travel by Indian scientists to the United States.

(b) Government has been conveying the United States that such restrictions are unjustified and counter-productive to the development of scientific and technological co-operation between India and the United States that both countries desire.US scientific organisations, including the American Physical Society, voiced their concern over US restrictions on free scientific exchanges between India and the United States. As a result, a number of scientists and officials from Indian scientific organisations have travelled to the United States on official work in recent months.